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Viewing cable 06MANAGUA958, DAS MADISON UNDERSCORES NEED FOR CONTINUOUS OAS

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Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#06MANAGUA958**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
06MANAGUA958	2006-05-03 13:19	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Managua

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-30/Mundo/NotasSecundarias/Mundo2758456.aspx>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-30/Mundo/NotasSecundarias/Mundo2758467.aspx>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-30/Mundo/NotasSecundarias/Mundo2758468.aspx>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-30/Mundo/NotasSecundarias/Mundo2758464.aspx>
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<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/4102/estrada-y-la-ldquo-doble-cara-rdquo-ante-ee-uu>
<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/3966/la-ldquo-injerencia-rdquo-de-ee-uu-en-el-2006>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-23/Mundo/Relacionados/Mundo2758764.aspx>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-23/Mundo/NotaPrincipal/Mundo2758753.aspx>
<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/4041/millones-de-dolares-sin-control-y-a-discrecion>
<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/4040/la-ldquo-injerencia-rdquo-de-venezuela-en-2006>
<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/4047/rodrigo-barreto-enviado-de-ldquo-vacaciones-rdquo>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-16/Mundo/NotasSecundarias/Mundo2757239.aspx>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-16/Mundo/NotaPrincipal/Mundo2746658.aspx>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-16/Mundo/Relacionados/Mundo2757244.aspx>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-16/Mundo/Relacionados/Mundo2746673.aspx>
<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/3991/dra-yadira-centeno-desmiente-cable-diplomatico-eeuu>
<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/3968/pellas-pronostico-a-eeuu-victoria-de-ortega-en-2006>
<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/3967/barreto-era-ldquo-fuente-confiable-rdquo-para-eeuu>

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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6154
INFO RUEHZA/WHA CENTRAL AMERICAN COLLECTIVE
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 0644
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 000958

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR WHA K. MADISON, WHA/CEN, WHA/USOAS, USAID/LAC M.
MAGAN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/03/2016

TAGS: [EAID](#) [KDEM](#) [NU](#) [PGOV](#) [PINR](#) [PREL](#)

SUBJECT: DAS MADISON UNDERSCORES NEED FOR CONTINUOUS OAS
LEADERSHIP ON THE GROUND

Classified By: Ambassador Paul A. Trivelli. Reasons 1.4 (B,D).

11. (SBU) During an April 26 meeting with OAS Country Director Pedro Vuskovich, visiting DAS Kirsten Madison, USAID DAA Mike Magan, and the Ambassador underscored the importance of continuous OAS observation and political leadership on the ground throughout Nicaragua's entire election period. Vuskovich advised that the OAS special electoral mission will arrive in Nicaragua by the end of April or early May; and that OAS-contracted technical director Patricio Gajardo will remain in Nicaragua throughout the process.

12. (C) Magan underscored the need for close coordination between the regular and special OAS missions. Vuskovich concurred, explaining that his modest OAS mission is channeling its efforts into supporting the special electoral mission. Adding that observation is the best way to dissuade fraud and to encourage high voter turnout, Vuskovich outlined his perception of the OAS special mission's three main tasks:

-- Ensure political stability;

--Ensure the technical integrity of the electoral process;
and,

--Address the structural weaknesses of the electoral process.

13. (C) Noting they had heard OAS special mission leader Gustavo Fernandez' presence in Nicaragua might be intermittent, Madison and Magan impressed upon Vuskovich that it is paramount for OAS electoral mission chief Gustavo Fernandez to be in country at all times. Vuskovich assured Madison that Fernandez and/or his deputy Raul Alconada will remain in Nicaragua, and he is confident they will make their presence known as needed. The Ambassador emphasized the value of such political weight to deal with an eventual attempt by the CSE to disqualify a particular candidate. He reminded Vuskovich that the OAS has also committed to forming a "group of notables" to appeal to the presidential candidates' desire for legitimacy and warn them of the high political costs they will incur if they attempt fraud or to disqualify a competitor.

14. (C) The Ambassador enumerated other concerns -- including the interpretation of Electoral Law 6; the Liberal Constitutional Party (PLC) magistrates' boycott of CSE sessions; and, the difficulties of Nicaraguans who do not identify with the Sandinistas (FSLN) to obtain national ID cards and/or to register to vote. The Ambassador urged the

OAS to coordinate its efforts with other donors, as well as with USAID and its CEPPS partners IFES, NDI, and IRI to resolve these and other issues. He cited the fact that IFES is working within the CSE, and that CSE President Roberto Rivas has publicly acknowledged IFES's fine work in its training of CSE employees. Vuskovich concurred that coordination is vital. He then shared his frustrations in dealing with Nicaragua's often unpredictable, context-driven political culture, fretting that, instead of firmly adhering to political ideology, Nicaraguan politicians are driven by their personal interests of the moment.

15. (U) Participants:

OAS:

Pedro Vuskovich, OAS Country Director

U.S.:

Deputy Assistant Secretary Kirsten Madison

Ambassador Paul Trivelli

USAID DAA Mike Magan

A/DCM A. Dickie

USAID Democracy Director Steve Hendrix

Polcouns Victoria Alvarado (notetaker)

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